

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An armed suture, comprising:

a needle having a pair of opposed ends and with a suture blind hole formed in one of said ends and extending longitudinally into said needle from said one end thereof, said hole including a sidewall and a bottom wall disposed at a location intermediate said opposed ends; therein;

a suture having an end thereof inserted into said suture hole; and

an adhesive, when cured, bonding said suture to said needle within said suture hole, said adhesive having a viscosity, when uncured, permitting said suture to be inserted into said suture hole; and

means, located in said hole, for increasing the bond between said adhesive and said hole.

2. (Original) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said adhesive is curable by exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

3. (Original) The armed suture of claim 2, wherein said electromagnetic radiation is UV light.

4. (Original) The armed suture of claim 3, wherein said adhesive is cyanoacrylate.

5. (Original) The armed suture of claim 2, wherein said adhesive is curable by a second curative agent.

6. (Original) The armed suture of claim 5, wherein said second curative agent is a compound.

7. (Original) The armed suture of claim 5, wherein said second curative agent is water.

8. (Original) The armed suture of claim 5, wherein said second curative agent is heat.

9. (Currently Amended) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said suture hole has a first diameter D_1 proximate the surface of said needle and a second diameter D_2 distal to said surface of said needle and distal to said first diameter D_1 , said second diameter D_2 being greater than said first diameter D_1 , such that said adhesive₁ when cured₁ forms a mechanical interlock with said needle hole.

10. (Original) The armed suture of claim 9, wherein an end of said needle proximate said needle hole is swaged inwardly.

11. (Currently Amended) The armed suture of claim 9, wherein said suture hole is formed by laser drilling.

12. (Currently Amended) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said suture hole is unpolished.

13. (Withdrawn) The armed suture of claim 1 wherein said suture hole has at least one groove having an orientation with a component of extension perpendicular to an axial direction of said suture hole.

14. (Original) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said suture is monofilament.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of making armed sutures, comprising the steps of:

(A) forming a needle hole in an end of a needle;

(B) applying an adhesive between an end of the suture and the needle hole;

(C) inserting a suture into the needle hole

(D) allowing the adhesive to at least partially cure.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further including a step of metering the adhesive onto the suture hole prior to said step of inserting.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of secondarily curing the adhesive.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said step of secondarily curing is performed by exposure to at least one of a chemical curative and heat.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the chemical curative is applied to the suture hole prior to said step of applying.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of applying includes dipping an end of the suture into the adhesive prior to the step of inserting.

21. (New) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said bond increasing means includes a groove formed in said hole.

22. (New) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said bond increasing means includes a roughened portion of said sidewall.

23. (New) The armed suture of claim 22, wherein said roughened portion is reamed.

24. (New) The armed suture of claim 22, wherein said roughened portion is laser drilled.

25. (New) The armed suture of claim 22, wherein said roughened portion is etched.

26. (New) The armed suture of claim 22, wherein said roughened portion includes a conical tip.

27. (New) The armed suture of claim 1, further comprising a catalyst disposed within said hole.

28. (New) The armed suture of claim 27, wherein said catalyst is disposed between said sidewall and said adhesive.

29. (New) The armed suture of claim 27, wherein said catalyst is cyanoacrylate.

30. (New) The armed suture of claim 1, wherein said bottom wall has a substantially conical shape.